(d) the possibility of accepting State's request; and

(e) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (e) The Union Government on 7th February, 2008 declared 14 projects as national projects. Thereafter, the Ministry of Water Resources on 26th February, 2009 issued guidelines for implementation of scheme of national projects *inter-alia* containing procedure to be followed for inclusion of a new project (apart from 14 projects already declared as national projects) in the list of national projects. In accordance with the procedure prescribed in the guidelines for implementation of the scheme of national projects, proposal for inclusion of Polavaram project in the list of national projects have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A new project to be included in the list of 14 already declared national project requires clearance from Expenditure Finance Committee/Project Investment Board, High Powered Steering Committee of Ministry of Water Resources for implementation of National Projects and finally by the Union Cabinet.

Ministry of Water Resources takes action on such proposals as per guidelines for implementation of scheme of national projects and no definite time frame could be fixed on the issue.

Policy on use of underground water

†3019. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any national policy regarding use of underground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government is going to formulate any national policy in this regard; and

(d) whether Government is considering private partnership in underground water right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Ministry of Water Resources has not formulated any specific National Policy regarding use of underground water. However, issues relating to ground water are duly addressed in the National Water Policy. Relevant paras from National Water Policy are as under:—

- There should be a periodical reassessment of the ground water potential on a scientific basis, taking into consideration the quality of the water available and economic viability of its extraction.
- Exploitation of ground water resources should be so regulated as not to exceed the recharging possibilities, as also to ensure social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented by the Central and State Governments.
- Integrated and coordination development of surface water and ground water

resources and their conjunctive use, should be envisaged right from the project planning stage and should form an integral part of the project implementation.

- Over-exploitation of ground water should be avoided especially near the coast to prevent ingress of seawater into sweet aquifers.
- Improvements in existing strategies, innovation of new techniques resting on a strong science and technology base are needed to eliminate the pollution of surface and ground water resources, to improve water quality.
- Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible. Private sector participation may help in introducing innovative ideas, generating financial resources and introducing corporate management and improving service efficiency and accountability to users.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Quantity of fluoride in water

†3020. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any norms regarding the quantity of fluoride in water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey in various cities of the country with a view to ascertain fluoride contents in water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published a Standard named "BIS 10500:1991 Drinking Water – Specification", which prescribes the essential and desirable characteristics required to be tested for ascertaining the suitability of water for drinking purposes. The Standard in respect of Fluoride prescribes the desirable limit as 1.0 milligram per litre (mg/l), and permissible limit in the absence of alternate source as 1.5mg/l.

(c) and (d) Central Ground Water Board monitors the ground water quality, once in a year on regional basis, through a network of 15640 observation wells located throughout the country. The fluoride content in the ground water samples collected from observation wells is found to be below 1.0 mg/l in most part of the country. At some locations, the fluoride content in ground water is found to exceed 1.5 mg/l.

Medium Irrigation Projects

3021. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medium irrigation projects, out of the total 221 (as per the Tenth Plan) projects, undertaken in the State of West Bengal in the Tenth Plan;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.